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guest-starring VENOM!
DAREDEVIL
"Fall from Grace" chapter 4
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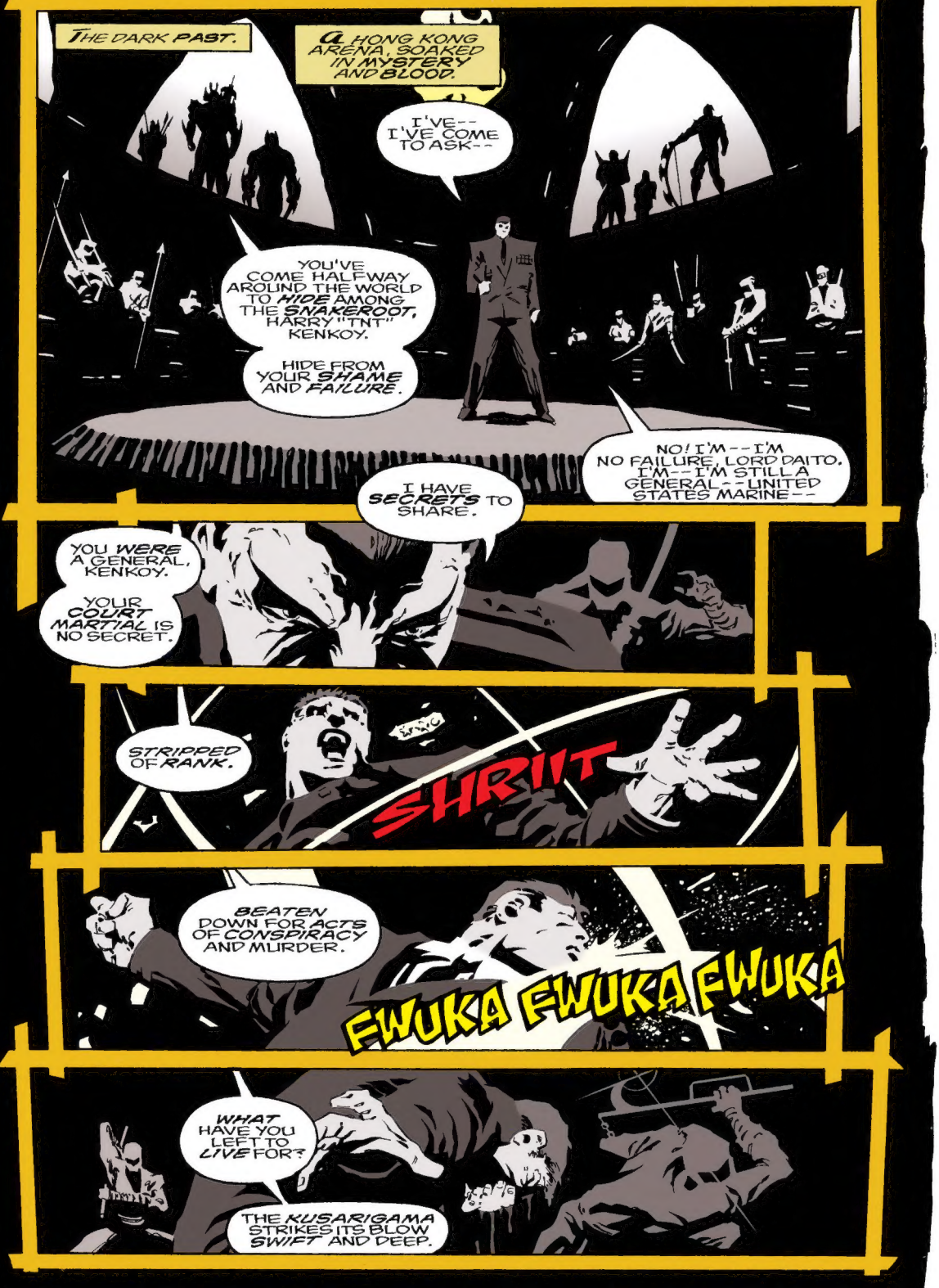
McDANIEL/GARRAHY


THE DARK PAST.
A HONG KONG ARENA, SOAKED IN MYSTERY AND BLOOD.
I'VE-- I'VE COME TO ASK--
YOU'VE COME HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD TO HIDE AMONG THE SNAKEROOT, HARRY "TNT" KENKOY.
HIDE FROM YOUR SHAME AND FAILURE.
NO! I'M--I'M NO FAILURE, LORD DAITO. I'M--I'M STILL A GENERAL--UNITED STATES MARINE--
I HAVE SECRETS TO SHARE.
YOU WERE A GENERAL, KENKOY.
YOUR COURT MARTIAL IS NO SECRET.
STRIPPED OF RANK.
SHRIIT
BEATEN DOWN FOR ACTS OF CONSPIRACY AND MURDER.
FWUKA FWUKA FWUKA
WHAT HAVE YOU LEFT TO LIVE FOR?
THE KUSARIGAMA STRIKES ITS BLOW SWIFT AND DEEP.

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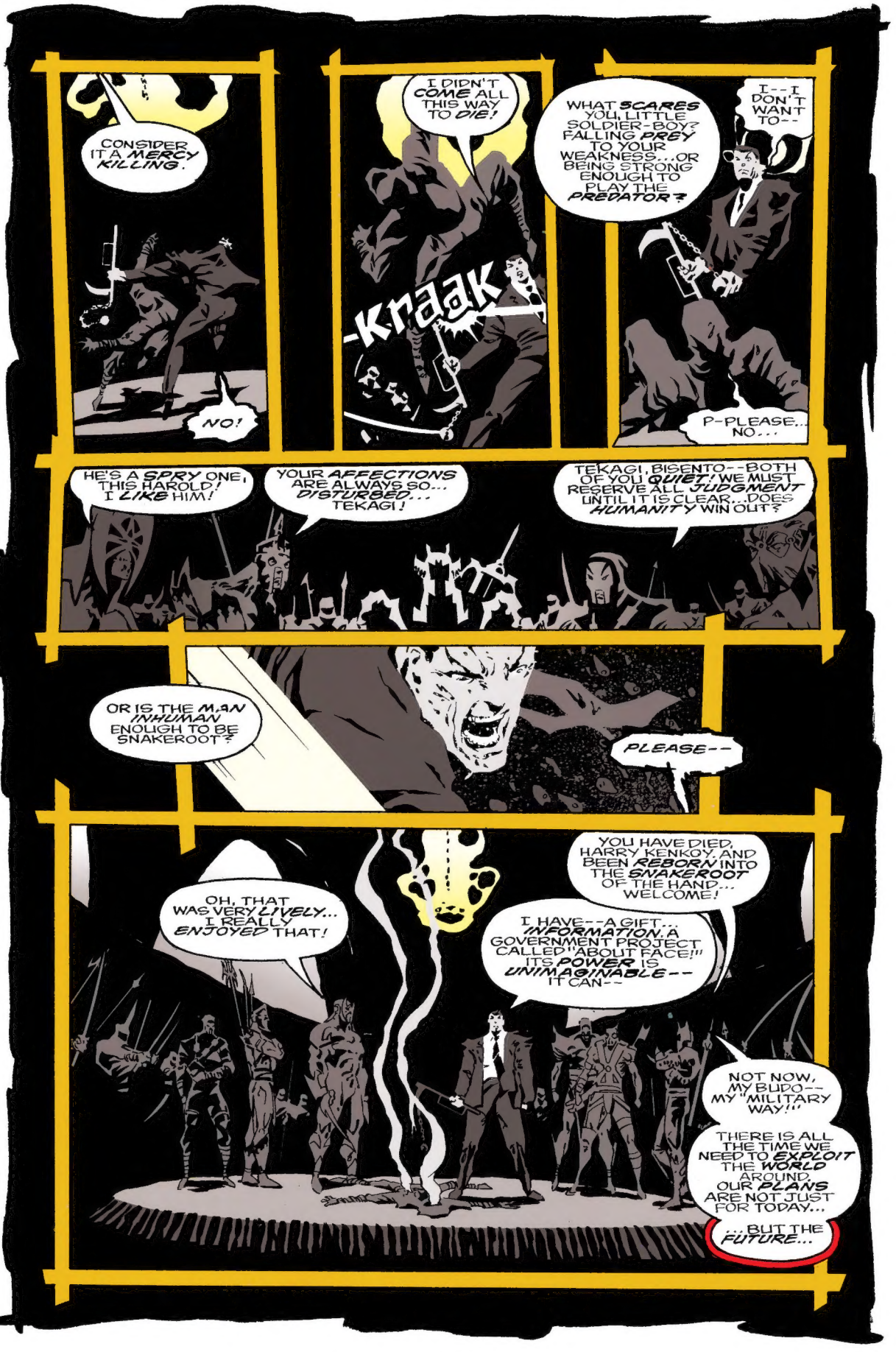
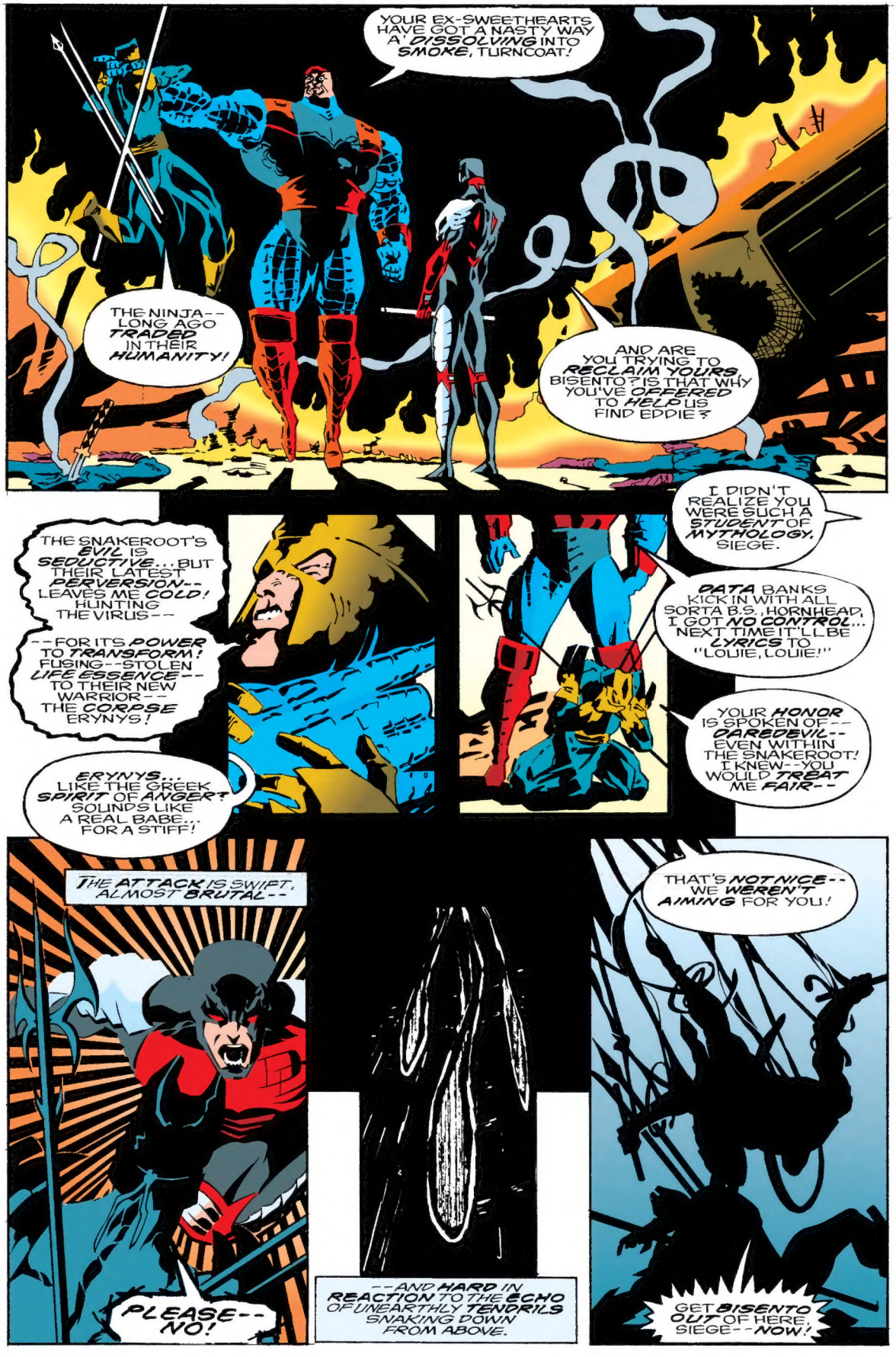
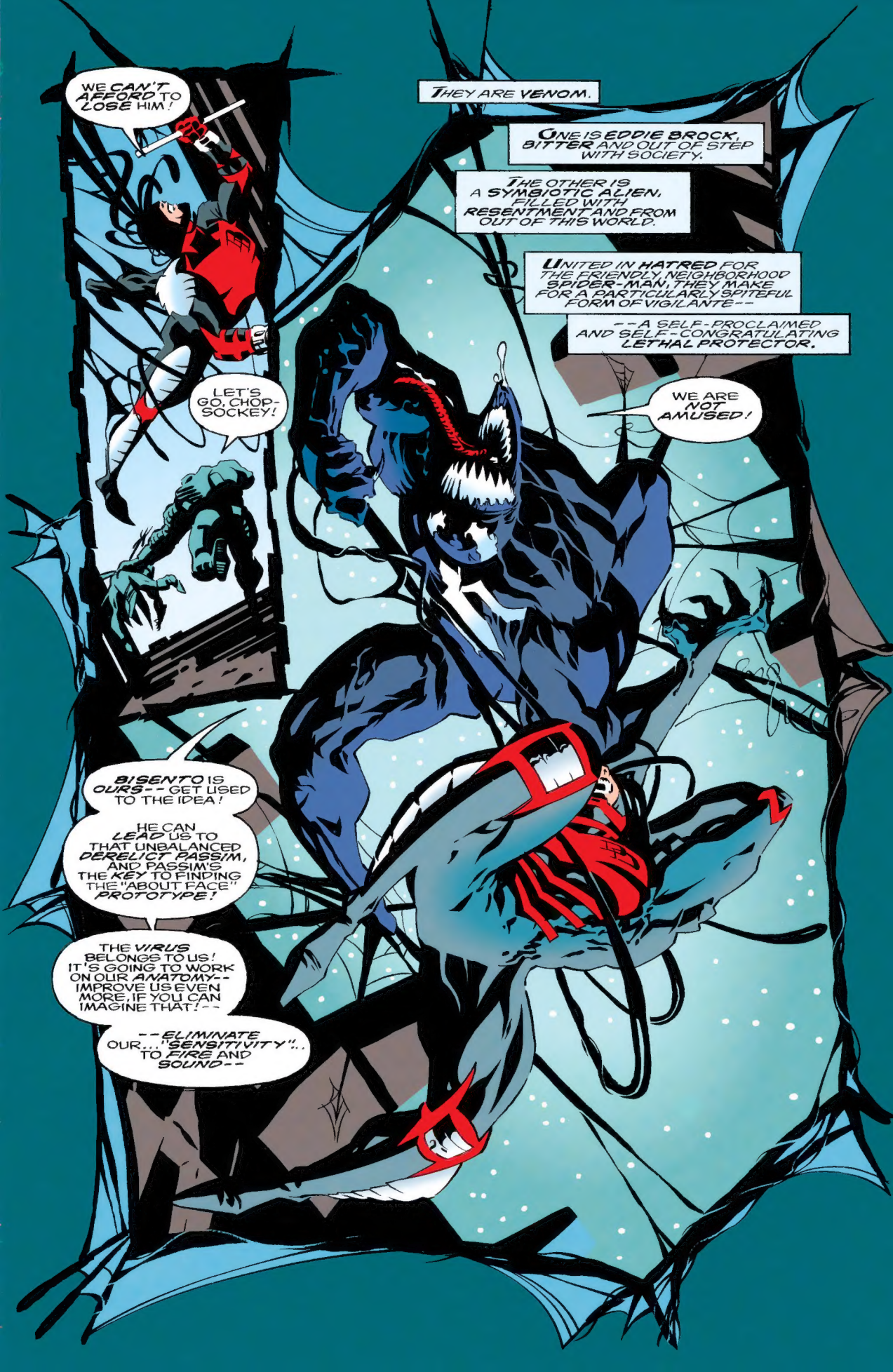

CONSIDER IT A MERCY KILLING.
NO!
I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO DIE!
-kraak
WHAT SCARES YOU, LITTLE SOLDIER-BOY? FALLING PREY TO YOUR WEAKNESS...OR BEING STRONG ENOUGH TO PLAY THE PREDATOR?
I--I DON'T WANT TO--
P-PLEASE... NO...
HE'S A SPRY ONE, THIS HAROLD! I LIKE HIM!
YOUR AFFECTIONS ARE ALWAYS SO... DISTURBED... TEKAGI!
TEKAGI, BISENTO--BOTH OF YOU QUIET! WE MUST RESERVE ALL JUDGMENT UNTIL IT IS CLEAR...DOES HUMANITY WIN OUT?
OR IS THE MAN INHUMAN ENOUGH TO BE SNAKEROOT?
PLEASE--
OH, THAT WAS VERY LIVELY... I REALLY ENJOYED THAT!
YOU HAVE DIED, HARRY KENKOY, AND BEEN REBORN INTO THE SNAKEROOT OF THE HAND... WELCOME!
I HAVE--A GIFT... INFORMATION, A GOVERNMENT PROJECT CALLED "ABOUT FACE!" ITS POWER IS UNIMAGINABLE-- IT CAN--
NOT NOW, MY BUDO-- MY "MILITARY WAY!"
THERE IS ALL THE TIME WE NEED TO EXPLOIT THE WORLD AROUND. OUR PLANS ARE NOT JUST FOR TODAY...
...BUT THE FUTURE...

THE EVER-DARKENING PRESENT DAY OF MANHATTAN ISLAND.
27 BLOCKS WEST, 7 MINUTES BACK, THE HAND'S NINJA DESCENDED ON THE SPEEDING ENGINE AND SLAUGHTERED IT'S COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS.
A CYBORG CALLED SIEGE AND THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR NAMED DAREDEVIL ARE ABOUT TO EVEN THE SCORE.
YOUR NEW FRIENDS CAN'T SAVE YOU, BISENTO!
The eternal man in the street says the street's no place for anyone anymore.
editorial, New York Times
December 29, 1980
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
fall from grace part 4
CONFLICT
BY D.G. CHICHESTER AND SCOTT MCDANIEL
COLLAZO & RANKIN INKERS
JANICE CHIANG LETTERER
MAX SCHEELE COLORIST
RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

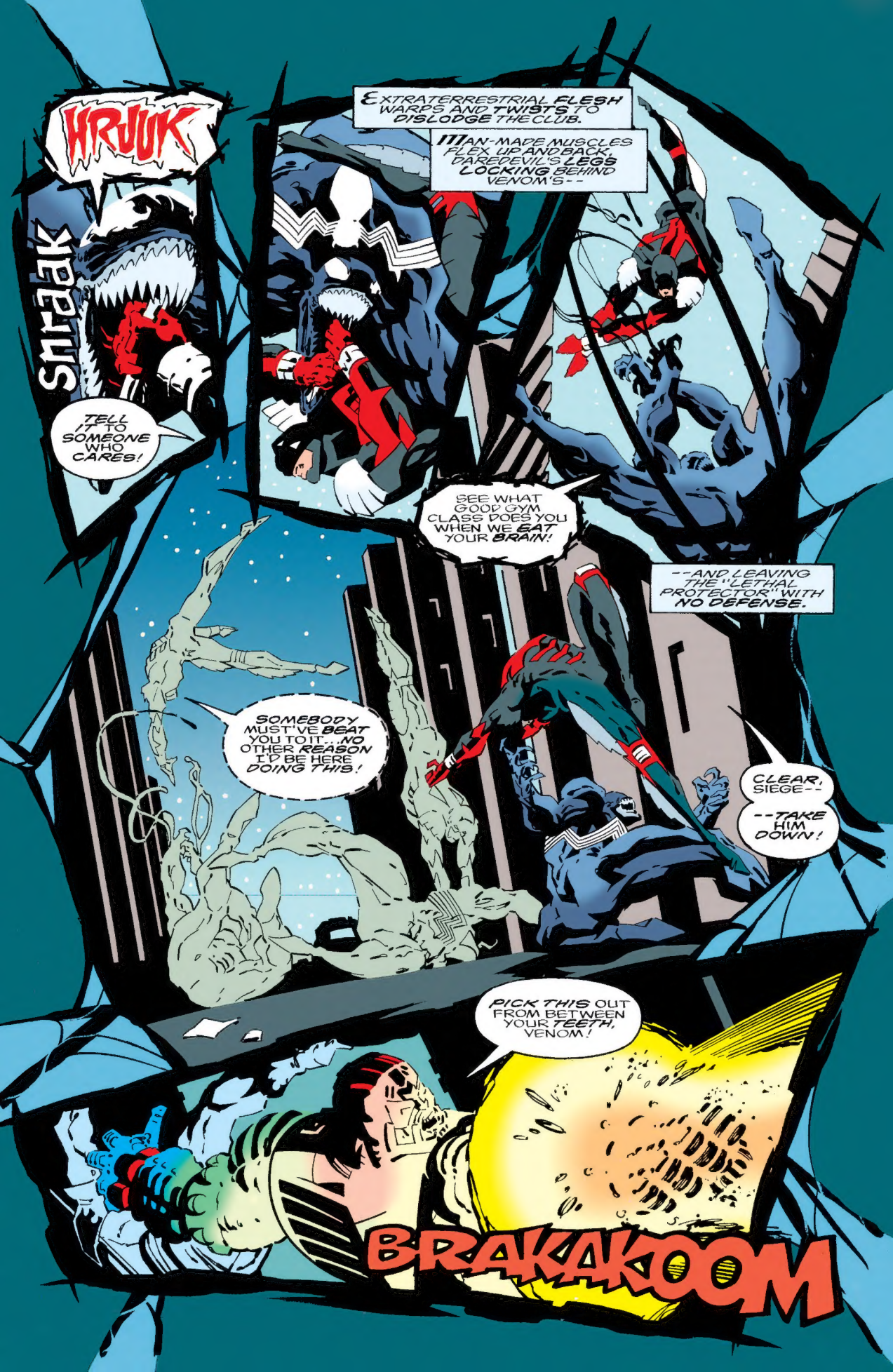
A COMPUTER PROGRAM INSIDE THE METAL AND FLESH "THINKS" IT MIGHT BE A SOLDIER NAMED JOHN KELLY.
AND SECRETLY HOPES IT'S NOT JUST A DESPERATE COLLECTION OF BITS AND BYTES GONE LOONY.
SIEGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE ESPIONAGE AGENCY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO TRACK A STOLEN CYBORG WRECKAGE NAMED JOHN GARRET--
--AND HAS BECOME ENTANGLED IN DAREDEVIL'S HUNT FOR A VIRAL TREASURE KNOWN AS "ABOUT FACE."
ALL RIGHT, PAL--WHERE'S THE FIRE?
;HEH-HEH-HEH;--ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT.
SLKRAAM
GENE-SPLICED TO THE BRAIN TISSUE OF MURDERED TELEPATH, THERESA BELLWEATHER, THE VIRUS WOULD RESPOND TO THOUGHT--
--AND CARRY OUT COMMANDS FROM THE INSIDE-OUT. CELLULAR CHANGES PHYSICALLY REMAKING THE "INFECTED"--
--BRINGING FORTH MIRACLES... OR NIGHTMARES.
SKREEEE
THERE IS BUT ONE REWARD FOR BETRAYING THE SNAKEROOT!
LOOK WHAT YOU WIN FOR STAYING LOYAL.
THE TRAITOR'S TIME TO DIE IS NOW, DAREDEVIL... AND YOURS IS LONG OVERDUE!
A CHILDHOOD ACT OF HEROISM HELPED SET THE COURSE FOR MATT MURDOCK'S LIFE--
--TAKING THE BOY'S SIGHT, BUT ENHANCING HIS REMAINING SENSES--
--AND PROVIDING A CRUDE INTERNAL RADAR TO HELP MAP THE BLACKNESS ALL AROUND.

FINGERS SEARCH OUT HIDDEN CONNECTORS--
KLIIK
snaapt
TCHING
--TWO WEAPONS CONVERTING INTO ONE.
I'M SORRY... DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
THE SNAKEROOT HOLDS BOTH EDDIE PASSIM AND THE SECRETS HE KNOWS OF "ABOUT FACE"...
...PROTECTING BISENTO CAN DO NOTHING TO CHANGE THAT "HERO"!
CHAINS RETRACT CENTERS JOINING TOGETHER--
KCHINGT
MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO.
--COLLAPSIBLE SECTIONS EXTENDING OUT.
SNRAAPK
EITHER WAY, IT SURE FEELS GOOD!


YOUR EX-SWEETHEARTS HAVE GOT A NASTY WAY A' DISSOLVING INTO SMOKE, TURNCOAT!
THE NINJA-- LONG AGO TRADED IN THEIR HUMANITY!
AND ARE YOU TRYING TO RECLAIM YOURS, BISENTO? IS THAT WHY YOU'VE OFFERED TO HELP US FIND EDDIE?
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SUCH A STUDENT OF MYTHOLOGY, SIEGE.
THE SNAKEROOT'S EVIL IS SEDUCTIVE... BUT THEIR LATEST PERVERSION-- LEAVES ME COLD! HUNTING THE VIRUS--
--FOR ITS POWER TO TRANSFORM! FUSING--STOLEN LIFE ESSENCE-- TO THEIR NEW WARRIOR-- THE CORPSE ERYNYS!
DATA BANKS KICK IN WITH ALL SORTA B.S., HORNHEAD, I GOT NO CONTROL... NEXT TIME IT'LL BE LYRICS TO "LOUIE, LOUIE!"
YOUR HONOR IS SPOKEN OF-- DAREDEVIL-- EVEN WITHIN THE SNAKEROOT! I KNEW--YOU WOULD TREAT ME FAIR--
ERYNYS... LIKE THE GREEK SPIRIT OF ANGER? SOUNDS LIKE A REAL BABE... FOR A STIFF!
THE ATTACK IS SWIFT, ALMOST BRUTAL--
PLEASE-- NO!
--AND HARD IN REACTION TO THE ECHO OF UNEARTHLY TENDRILS SNAKING DOWN FROM ABOVE.
THAT'S NOT NICE-- WE WEREN'T AIMING FOR YOU!
GET BISENTO OUT OF HERE, SIEGE--NOW!


WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HIM!
LET'S GO, CHOP-SOCKEY!
THEY ARE VENOM.
ONE IS EDDIE BROCK, BITTER AND OUT OF STEP WITH SOCIETY.
THE OTHER IS A SYMBIOTIC ALIEN, FILLED WITH RESENTMENT AND FROM OUT OF THIS WORLD.
UNITED IN HATRED FOR THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN, THEY MAKE FOR A PARTICULARLY SPITEFUL FORM OF VIGILANTE--
--A SELF-PROCLAIMED AND SELF-CONGRATULATING LETHAL PROTECTOR.
WE ARE NOT AMUSED!
BISENTO IS OURS--GET USED TO THE IDEA!
HE CAN LEAD US TO THAT UNBALANCED DERELICT PASSIM, AND PASSIM'S THE KEY TO FINDING THE "ABOUT FACE" PROTOTYPE!
THE VIRUS BELONGS TO US! IT'S GOING TO WORK ON OUR ANATOMY--IMPROVE US EVEN MORE, IF YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT!--
--ELIMINATE OUR..."SENSITIVITY"..TO FIRE AND SOUND--

--AND LEAVE US DWARFING THAT BUG SPIDER-MAN WITHOUT QUESTION!
MUST BE NICE HAVIN' SUCH AN ACTIVE FANTASY LIFE.
BET YOU HAD AN IMAGINARY FRIEND WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE. A SLIMY BLACK E.T. WITH DENTAL PROBLEMS, MAYBE?
ME, I JUST PLAYED WITH TOY SOLDIERS.
AND NOW THAT I'M ALL GROWN UP, MY WAR GAMES, ARE BIGGER, TOO.
ARE YOU MOCKING US, TIN MAN?
NO. JUST TARGETING.
HERE'S THE DEAL WITH THE DAREDEVIL--SET HIM LOOSE NOW, AND I'LL ONLY BLOW YOU HALFWAY TO KINGDOM COME!
OH MY! THE BIG, BAD ROBOT FRIGHTENED US, YES HE DID!
HYPERSENSES RAGE, REBELLING AGAINST OTHERWORLDLY TEXTURE AND SCENT.
DAREDEVIL FOCUSES PAST SENSORY REVULSION, WAITING FOR THE STROBE OF MOTION TO SIGNAL AN OPENING.
LISTEN UP, "GIGANTOR"... HERE'S THE WAY WE SAY IT'S GOING DOWN--


HRUUK
SNRAAK
TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO CARES!
EXTRATERRESTRIAL FLESH WARPS AND TWISTS TO DISLODGE THE CLUB.
MAN-MADE MUSCLES FLEX UP AND BACK, DAREDEVIL'S LEGS LOCKING BEHIND VENOM'S--
SEE WHAT GOOD GYM CLASS DOES YOU WHEN WE EAT YOUR BRAIN!
--AND LEAVING THE "LETHAL PROTECTOR" WITH NO DEFENSE.
SOMEBODY MUST'VE BEAT YOU TO IT...NO OTHER REASON I'D BE HERE DOING THIS!
CLEAR, SIEGE--
--TAKE HIM DOWN!
PICK THIS OUT FROM BETWEEN YOUR TEETH, VENOM!
BRAKAKOOM

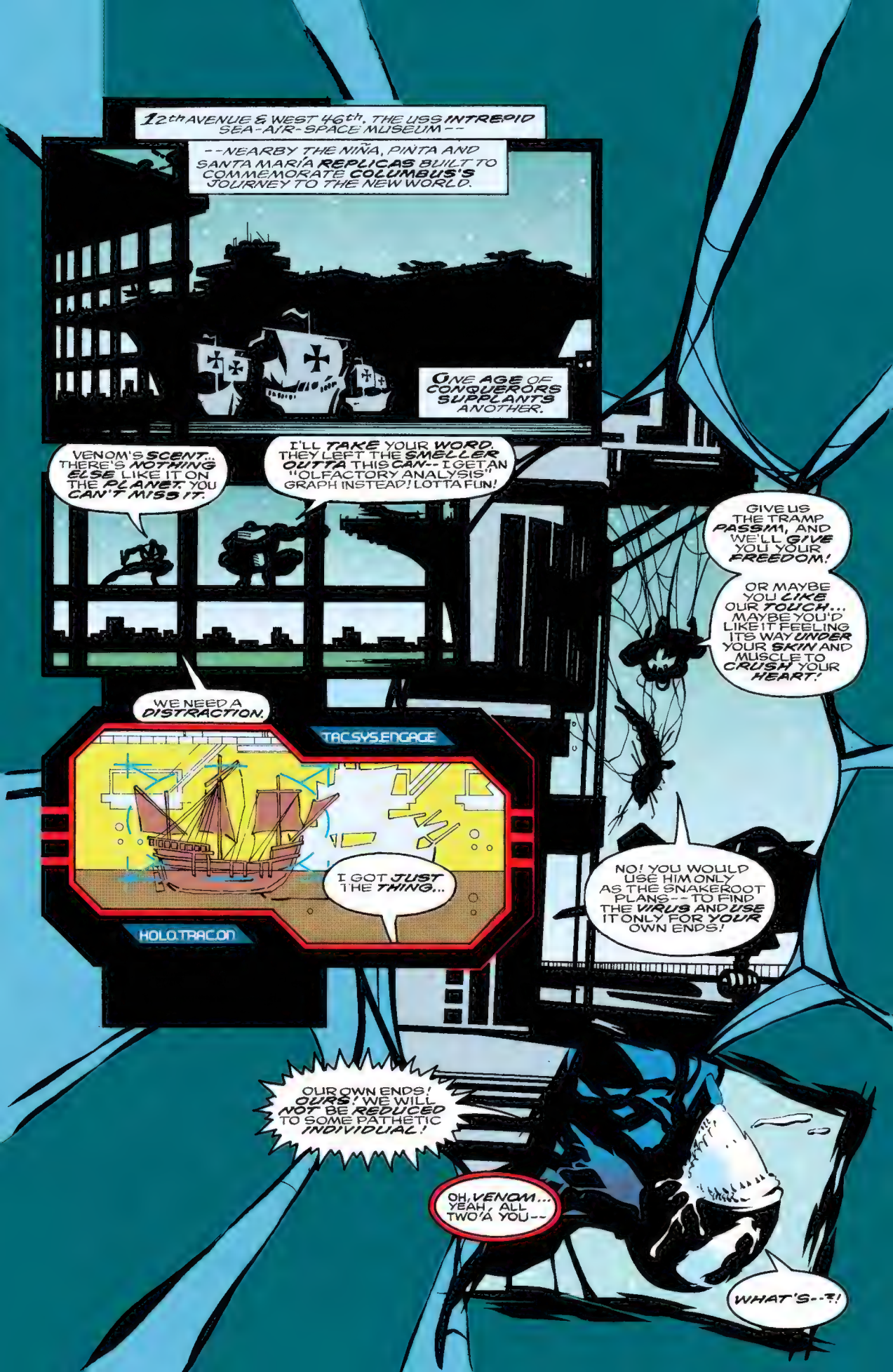
WANNA PLAY WITH FIREPOWER, TIN-SOLDIER?
CAREFUL, NOW...
KRKNCH
...WE WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET BURNED...
SHRAANK
HRSSS
NATURAL GAS HAS NO ODOR. IT'S WHAT BROOKLYN UNION GAS MIXES IN THAT GIVES IT A SMELL: MERCAPTAN BASE COMPOUND--
--MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS SKUNK OIL.
THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S CABLES RUN RIGHT ALONGSIDE THE GAS LINES HE'S TORN OUT--GET OUT OF HERE!
KLAAK
HRSSS
IS THIS YOUR IDEA-- OF FAIR TREATMENT?
THWIT
ENHANCED SENSES FOLLOW THE BALLOONING STENCH AND HISS.
HANDS MOVE QUICKLY, SWITCHING A TOOL FOR BATTLE WITH A MEANS OF ESCAPE.
THE NAME'S "SIEGE," HORNHEAD, NOT "RETREAT!" I NEVER GIVE GROUND!

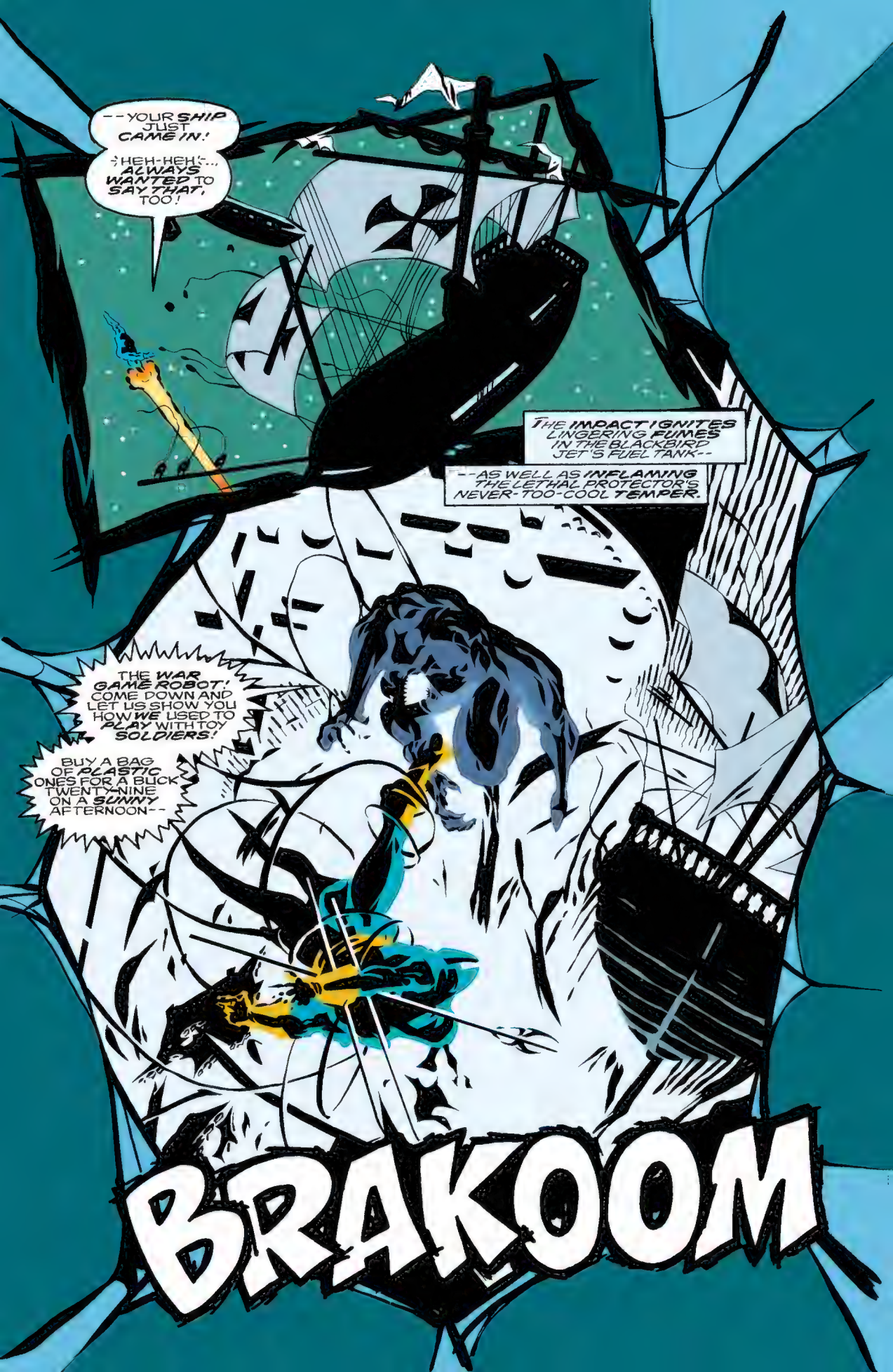
MAYBE THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND SIEGE!
IT'S CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO WIN US ANY FANS AT CON-ED...
KRAAK
THEN AGAIN "RETREAT'S" GOT A NICE RING TO IT.
KRAKOOM

BISENTO--
URRK!
BE GOOD TO US, WE'LL BE GOOD TO YOU!
BUT KEEP US WAITING ON WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW, AND WE'LL DROP YOU OFF THE CHRYSLER BUILDING--ONE PIECE AT A TIME!
SLKRAASH
I WANTED--I JUST WANTED A CHANCE TO DO SOME GOOD--
HOOKING UP WITH YOU SURE SOUNDED LIKE THE WAY TO GO... YOU GOT A REAL UNDERHANDED WAY WITH WORDS, DAREDEVIL!
EVER THINK OF BECOMING A LAWYER?
AND GIVE UP ALL THIS?
I'LL GET MY SYSTEM TO PROGRAM A SEARCH PATTERN--TRY, ANYWAY! WE'RE CORING THIS BIG APPLE TO FIND THAT HARDCASE!
NO--WE'RE NOT GOING TO WASTE OUR TIME IN SOME KNOCK-DOWN DRAG-OUT!
THE VIRUS--EVERYBODY WANTS IT FOR SOMETHING! NOBODY'S HAPPY WITH WHAT THEY ARE--
--THE SNAKEROOT, VENOM, SOME BOOGEYMAN NAMED HELLSPAWN, EVEN YOU FOR ALL I KNOW!
WELL, ONE THING'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE--THIS CITY'S NOT TURNING INTO A SHOOTING GALLERY, NOT WHILE I'M AROUND!
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO STAGE A SHOWDOWN...

THE OFFICES OF THE BIG APPLE ADVOCATE.
THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL IN SMALL PRESS NEWSPAPERS.
DON'T GET US WRONG, SARA... WE APPRECIATE YOU COMING TO US WITH THIS STORY.
UNDERSTAND WE HAVE TO BE... CAUTIOUS... WITH SUCH POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL!
PRESS
ADVOCATE
LOU, C'MON-- ALL WE HAVE TO BE IS READY TO SELL OUT OF EVERY EDITION WE CAN PRINT!
THAT HEADLINE-- "MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL!" EXPOSING A SUPER HERO'S IDENTITY... THAT PUTS THIS PAPER ON THE MAP.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, STEVEY, IT'D PUT US IN THE BLACK. BUT AS TEMPTING AS THAT IS...
...I'M NOT COMFORTABLE THAT WE'VE COVERED OUR BACKSIDES!
LOOK, I'D LIKE TO HAVE MORE, UH, "HARD FACTS" IN MY FILES...
"YOUR" FILES, LITTLE GIRL... S'FUNNY. SOME A' THOSE NOTES LOOK A LOT LIKE ANOTHER REPORTER'S HANDWRITING-- BEN URICH.
WORKS AT THE BUGLE. YOU INTERNED THERE, DIN'TCHA?
FROM A LEGAL STANDPOINT, WE CAN'T COMMIT TO MAKING THAT KIND OF DECLARATIVE STATEMENT WITHOUT BEING ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE!
LOOK, I'M NOT LOSING MY BYLINE JUST BECAUSE I'M MISSING SOME PAPERWORK!
LOU? LOU, WHATTA YA SAY? I'M ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE-- ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE WE CAN WRITE OUR OWN TICKET WHEN THIS HITS THE STANDS!
I DON'T KNOW, STEVEY. I'M SORRY, SARA... I JUST DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN SAY THIS IN PRINT WHEN THERE ARE STILL QUESTIONS.
I DO.
EVIL?
SKRIIK
MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL?
WHEN'S THE SOONEST WE CAN GO ON PRESS?

SIXTH AVENUE AND EIGHTH STREET OUTSIDE THE BARNES & NOBLE.
STOP THE HATE
PORNOGRAPHY IS WOMAN-HATE! DON'T LET IT INFECT OUR LIVES!
AGAINST WOMEN
WHAT ABOUT FREE SPEECH?
DON'T PUBLISHERS OR FILMMAKERS HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO PRINT OR MAKE WHAT THEY WANT AS YOU DO TO PROTEST AGAINST IT?
NO! WHAT IF THERE WERE SPECIAL MAGAZINES OR MOVIES WHERE WHITES BEAT BLACKS, OR CHRISTIANS BEAT JEWS?
BUT IF IT'S CALLED PORN AND WOMEN ARE VICTIMS, THEN YOU'RE SEEN AS A PRUDE OR REACTIONARY TO OBJECT!
STOP THE HATE
AGAINST WOMEN
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING...
DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, JILLIAN! FOGGY'S A LAWYER-- HE'S PAID BY THE HOUR TO RUN OFF AT THE MOUTH!
I'LL GET YOU A SODA TO HELP COOL OFF!
THESE PICTURES-- THIS BROCHURE-- UGH!-- IT'S DISGUSTING, KAREN!
EXACTLY! SOFT FOCUS BIMBOS IN "IDLE RICH BOY" ARE ONLY THE TIP OF THE DEGRADATION ICEBERG.
WHAT'S THE DEAL, SHYSTER? YOU DIDN'T COME DOWN HERE TO DEBATE THE LEGAL ISSUES OF OUR CAMPAIGN, DID YOU?
TWO... THANKS!
DIET? I WAS HOPING FOR A "YOO-HOO!"
DIET
SHOULD'VE HAD YOUR LAST "YOO HOO" TWO BELT NOTCHES BACK.
NOW GIVE.
WELL, KAREN... IT'S ABOUT MATT...
...HE'S BEEN, I DON'T KNOW, NEGLECTING THE OFFICE--
--AND I'M THINKING IT'S SOMETHING... PERSONAL... THAT'S TAKING HIM AWAY!
UH-UH. NOT ME, FOGGY. I STEER CLEAR OF TOO MUCH PERSONAL STUFF WITH MATT. THINGS... THEY CAN GET...
IT STILL HURTS SOMETIMES. FROM WHAT WE HAD.
BUT WHAT YOU HAD MEANS YOU MIGHT BE MORE FAMILIAR WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES-- MATT MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN.
IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT'S PULLING HIM AWAY. EASIER THAN ME BRINGING IT UP, ANYWAY.
I DON'T KNOW, FOGGY... IT OPENS A LOT OF DOORS, IT--
--THAT'S NOT LIKE HIM, TO SHIRK-- IT MUST BE A REAL NIGHTMARE THAT'S--
I'LL... I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO... FOR MATT...


12th AVENUE & WEST 46th. THE USS INTREPID SEA-AIR-SPACE MUSEUM--
--NEARBY THE NIÑA, PINTA AND SANTA MARÍA REPLICAS BUILT TO COMMEMORATE COLUMBUS'S JOURNEY TO THE NEW WORLD.
ONE AGE OF CONQUERORS SUPPLANTS ANOTHER.
VENOM'S SCENT... THERE'S NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT ON THE PLANET. YOU CAN'T MISS IT.
I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD. THEY LEFT THE SMELLER OUTTA THIS CAN-- I GET AN "OLFACTORY ANALYSIS" GRAPH INSTEAD! LOTTA FUN!
GIVE US THE TRAMP PASSIM, AND WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR FREEDOM!
OR MAYBE YOU LIKE OUR TOUCH... MAYBE YOU'D LIKE IT FEELING ITS WAY UNDER YOUR SKIN AND MUSCLE TO CRUSH YOUR HEART!
WE NEED A DISTRACTION.
TAC.SYS.ENGAGE
I GOT JUST THE THING...
HOLO.TRACON
NO! YOU WOULD USE HIM ONLY AS THE SNAKEROOT PLANS-- TO FIND THE VIRUS AND USE IT ONLY FOR YOUR OWN ENDS!
OUR OWN ENDS! OURS! WE WILL NOT BE REDUCED TO SOME PATHETIC INDIVIDUAL!
OH, VENOM... YEAH, ALL TWO'A YOU--
WHAT'S--?!


--YOUR SHIP JUST CAME IN.
HEH-HEH--... ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT, TOO!
THE IMPACT IGNITES LINGERING FUMES IN THE BLACKBIRD JET'S FUEL TANK--
--AS WELL AS INFLAMING THE LETHAL PROTECTOR'S NEVER-TOO-COOL TEMPER.
THE WAR GAME ROBOT! COME DOWN AND LET US SHOW YOU HOW WE USED TO PLAY WITH TOY SOLDIERS!
BUY A BAG OF PLASTIC ONES FOR A BUCK TWENTY-NINE ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON--
BRAKOOM

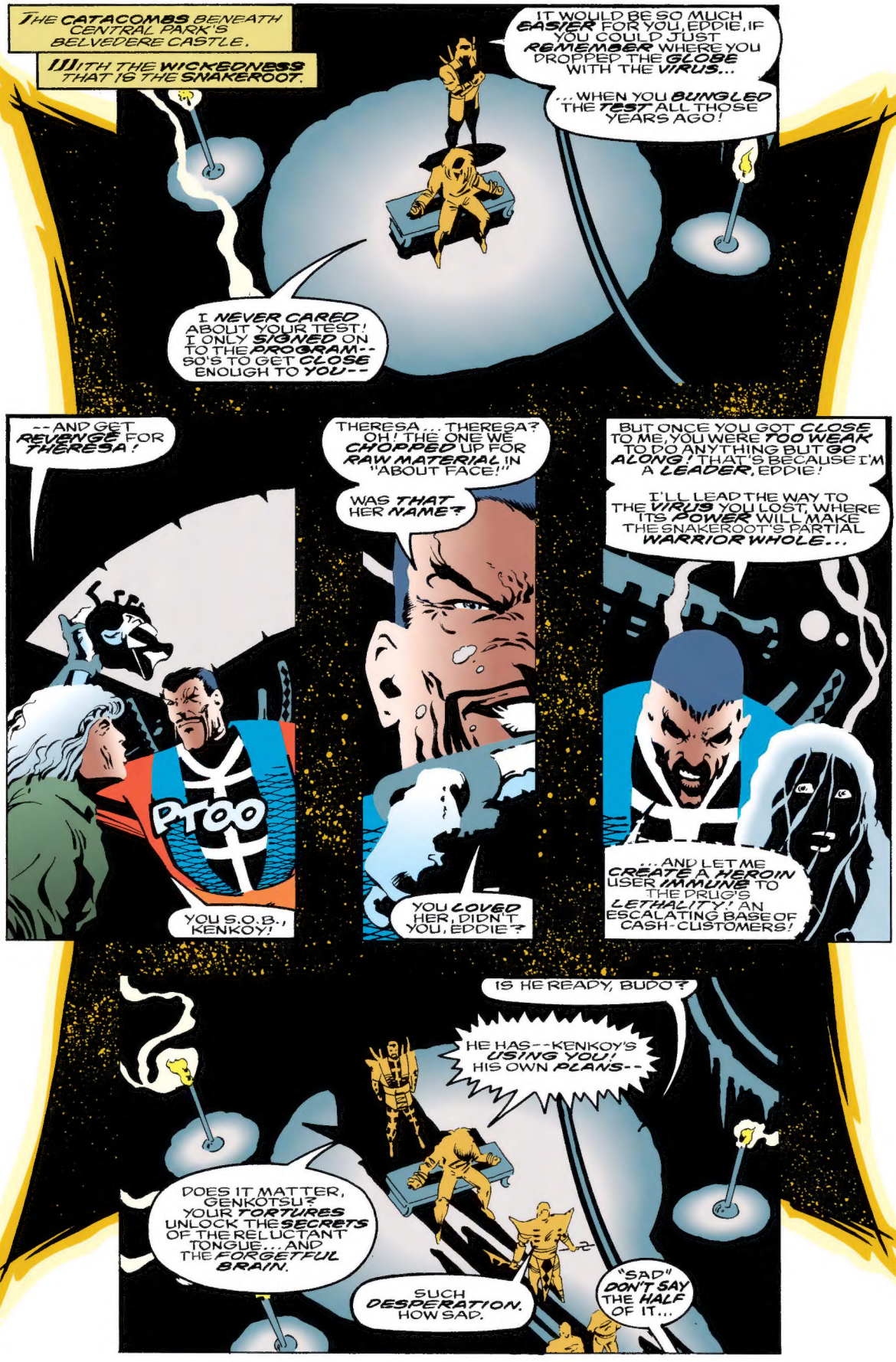
--AND MELT THEM DOWN UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS!
THEY DIDN'T SCREAM MUCH-- EXCEPT MAYBE IN OUR HEAD-- BUT YOU WILL, SIEGE! SCREAM LOUD AND LONG!
WHAT NOW, LITTLE NINJA? LITTLE "BENEDICT ARNOLD" FIND SOME BACKBONE?
N-NO...
WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN ANATOMY, VENOM...
...THE HAMSTRING, FOR EXAMPLE.
THWIP
WE'RE GOING TO TEAR OUT YOUR--
THAT HANGING THING YOU'VE GOT GOING--
--LOOKS GREAT--
--VERY MENACING--
YOU CAN'T TRIP US UP SO EASILY, DAREDEVIL!
SO IT SEEMS.

HRAAAGGK
--TOO BAD IT LEAVES YOU WIDE OPEN.
YOU CAN'T EVADE US ALL NIGHT!
SNRAAK
SNAAPT
KRAAK
SURE I CAN.

NOT THAT HE HAS TO WHEN I CAN TOAST YOU DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE FLIGHT DECK!
GUESS AGAIN, SMILEY... YOU'RE BETWEEN THE DAREDEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE PLASMA CANNON!
STAND DOWN, SIEGE.
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
WHAT?!?
YOU HEARD ME. WE'RE GOING TO TALK THIS OUT.
THAT'S THE PLAN, IS IT?! KEEP US OCCUPIED WHILE YOU GRAB THE PRIZE FOR YOURSELVES! NO, NO, NO, NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF CON YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL...
A DEMONSTRATION, VENOM. TO SHOW YOU WE CAN DANCE AROUND EACH OTHER ALL NIGHT.
BUT IT'S MORE IMPORTANT YOU--BOTH OF YOU--REALIZE THE TERRIBLE MISTAKE YOU'D BE MAKING USING THAT VIRUS!
IT'S ONLY IN OVERCOMING ONE'S HANDICAPS THAT TRUE HEROISM IS BORN.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "MISTAKE"?
ERASE YOUR "SENSITIVITY" TO FIRE AND SOUND AND YOU HAVE NOTHING MORE TO TRIUMPH OVER...

...AND YOU LOSE THE EDGE THAT MAKES YOU A BETTER HERO THAN SAY, SPIDER-MAN!
YOU'RE--YOU'RE MESSING WITH MY--WITH OUR--HEAD!
AM I?
DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS.
"ONLY IN OVERCOMING ONE'S HANDICAPS THAT TRUE HEROISM IS BORN..."--OH, YOU ARE GOOD, HORNHEAD!
I'VE GOT TO BE... VENOM REPRESENTS ALL THE UNPREDICTABLE DANGER THIS VIRUS CONTINUES TO THREATEN!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET THAT KIND OF SELF-CENTERED MENACE TAKE CONTROL...OR HELP ADD TO IT! THE SNAKEROOT, BISENTO...AND EDDIE PASSIM.
WE ARE BETTER!
YOU'VE MADE GOOD ON YOUR WORD, DAREDEVIL, AND I SHALL MAKE GOOD ON MINE! TO MAKE AMENDS...AND TELL ALL!
TAKE HIM--AND THE DAMNABLE VIRUS!
WE'RE GOING HOME TO SAN FRANCISCO!
THEY MAKE THEIR BASE AT BELVEDERE CASTLE, WHERE ERYNYS GROWS STRONG...
...AND THE ESSENCE THAT ANIMATES HER IS THAT OF YOUR DEAD LOVER, THE ASSASSIN ELEKTRA!

THAT-- THAT CAN'T BE! ELEKTRA-- SHE'S--
GAARRK
YOUR TALK OF "REFORM" SICKENS ME, SNAKEROOT!
THERE'S ONLY ONE REDEMPTION FOR YOUR KIND!
RADAR REFLECTS BACK THE WEAPON BURIED DEEP IN BISENTO'S BACK.
A REMINDER OF SOMEONE LONG GONE...
...INSPIRING A WHITE-HOT FLASH OF RASH AND IMPOSSIBLE HOPE.
ANOTHER SAI-- LIKE SHE ALWAYS CARRIED!
LIKE ELEKTRA...
LOOK WHAT WE GOT HERE...
IT'S YOU...


THE CATACOMBS BENEATH CENTRAL PARK'S BELVEDERE CASTLE.
WITH THE WICKEDNESS THAT IS THE SNAKEROOT.
IT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER FOR YOU, EDDIE, IF YOU COULD JUST REMEMBER WHERE YOU DROPPED THE GLOBE WITH THE VIRUS...
...WHEN YOU BUNGLED THE TEST ALL THOSE YEARS AGO!
I NEVER CARED ABOUT YOUR TEST! I ONLY SIGNED ON TO THE PROGRAM-- SO'S TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO YOU--
--AND GET REVENGE FOR THERESA!
PTOO
YOU S.O.B., KENKOY!
THERESA... THERESA? OH! THE ONE WE CHOPPED UP FOR RAW MATERIAL IN "ABOUT FACE!"
WAS THAT HER NAME?
YOU LOVED HER, DIDN'T YOU, EDDIE?
BUT ONCE YOU GOT CLOSE TO ME, YOU WERE TOO WEAK TO DO ANYTHING BUT GO ALONG! THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A LEADER, EDDIE!
I'LL LEAD THE WAY TO THE VIRUS YOU LOST, WHERE ITS POWER WILL MAKE THE SNAKEROOT'S PARTIAL WARRIOR WHOLE...
...AND LET ME CREATE A HEROIN USER IMMUNE TO THE DRUG'S LETHALITY! AN ESCALATING BASE OF CASH-CUSTOMERS!
IS HE READY, BUDO?
HE HAS--KENKOY'S USING YOU! HIS OWN PLANS--
DOES IT MATTER, GENKOTSU? YOUR TORTURES UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE RELUCTANT TONGUE... AND THE FORGETFUL BRAIN.
SUCH DESPERATION. HOW SAD.
"SAD" DON'T SAY THE HALF OF IT...

NAME'S JOHN GARRETT. BAD NEWS SHIELD CYBORG HARDCASE. I THINK.
USED TO THINK I WAS THE PRESIDENT, TOO. BUT I'M BETTER NOW.
THE LOOKER CALLS HERSELF ERYNYS, BUT INSIDE SHE'S GOT SOMETHIN' OF A HOT NUMBER I CALLED ELEKTRA.
ALONG WITH OTHER NAMES I LEARNED AT THE "REAL MAN'S HARD CORE REVIEW" IN JERSEY CITY.
THEY PULLED THAT ELEKTRA PART OF HER OUTTA MY BRAIN. SAME GRAY MATTER THAT THOUGHT I WAS COMMANDER IN CHIEF.
...WHAT A LOSER!
SILENCE, GARRETT!
YEAH. OKAY.
BUT I'M BETTER NOW.
REALLY.
I THINK SHE WANTS ME.
NEXT: MORBIUS -- DESCENT!